worth crores of rupees to the country. India's biological wealth is being taken out of the country to earn money for companies in European and American countries. Whether it is the seed of special varieties of rice and wheat which are going to American seed companies or the orchids of the North-East out of which European floriculture companies are earning millions. Valuable medicinal plants found in our country are being smuggled out and patented by foreing companies. New Indian companies cannot produce medicines out of many Indian plants based on our knowledge of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha because some American or European companies have already taken a patent on Haldi, Tulsi, Amla or Neem etc. The North-East region which is rich in biodiversity has become a target of biopiracy. Last year, a Japanese was caught, trying to smuggle out several rare species of butterflies at Delhi Airport; but he had to be set free as there is no legislation in our country to check such biopiracy.

Other countries have already formulated national legislations establishing their ownership over their biological resources. It is high time, the Government of India also rise to the occasion by formulating adequate legislation in this regard.

(vii) Need to ensure that Bisra Dolomite Stone and Lime Stone Mines at Birmitrapur, Orrisa are not closed

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : I draw the attention of the House to the future of thousands of workers and their family members, 95 per cent of them belonging to the tribals who are going to be without work in the event of the closure of the Sisra Dolomite Stone and Lime Stone Mines at Birmitrapur and Dolomite stone mines at Purnapani.

Sir, BSL at Birmitrapur is the oldest mine in the country and once there were seven thousand workers. Now there are some 3000 workers out of which 95 per cent are tribals. The mines supply Dolomite stone to Rourkela Steel Plant and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. But due to managerial defects the mine is going to be closed. I would request the Government that this should be taken over by the Steel Authority of India.

Sir, so also Purnapani Mine under RMD supplies Dolomite stone to the Rourkela Steel Plant. The RMD have served notice to the workers that they are going to close the mines throwing another 3000 tribal workers out of work.

Sir, in Birmitrapur Assembly segment which stands on the border of Orissa and Bihar, the closure of these mines will create a lot of law and order problems. I request the Union Government to take immediate steps so that these mines are not closed.

(viii) Need for Expeditious Implementation of the Recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : After a long wait of more than three years the Fifth Pay Commission has at last submitted its report.

The Government of India has implemented the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, 11 years ago. Since then the steep rise in the inflation and sky-rocketing prices of essential commodities have made the life of Central Government employees miserable. The purchasing capacity of these employees has been affected adversely, particularly of those belonging to Class III and IV. This situation has created a gloomy future for these employees. The Income-tax is slowly but steadily engulfing the Class II employees also. The Income-tax ceiling had not been raised last year despite repeated demands by almost all parties and public in general. There are a number of criticisms about the recommendations. A grievances Cell can be set-up by the Government for this purpose. Many employees' associations have already threatened to go on an Indefinite strike if the recommendations are not implemented at the earliest.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to implement the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission without any further delay.

(ix) Need to set up the Proposed Bottling Plant of ONGC near Jharsuguda, Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Considering all factors it was proposed to set up a bottling plant by the Indian Oil Corporation in the undivided Sambalpur district near Jharsuguda in Orissa in order to meet the increasing demand of LPG cylinders in the country in particular. But it is a matter of concern that the proposal has not materialised so far. It is learnt that there is a move to shelve the proposal to locate the same somewhere else in the State about 250 kms. away. This is causing discontentment among the people in the area.

I request the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to intervene so as to ensure the setting up of the proposed Bottling Plant near Jharsuguda, Orissa.

14.25 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item No. 18–Further consideration of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. I oppose it because this Government can not follow the tradition established by the President. Only a few days back the President invited the largest political party, the BJP to form the Government. This Government has not been able to follow the tradition which the President has established. I want to draw the attention of this